



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Anne Neary

Web: www.narvalleyfederation.co.uk

Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy week in school with some great learning happening in all our classes. Last Friday we had an RE morning where the children learnt about stories from the Old and New Testament and their chronology in the Bible. The stories included Jesus healing the blind man, the story of Noah's Ark and the children re-enacted the story of the prodigal son. The children produced some fantastic stained glass windows and a super ark. Rowan Class have continued their learning in their independent activities by creating their own creation books. This week there has been a bit of a focus on Remembrance Day with some thought provoking discussions about peace and war. Our focus in school is always on peace but we all know that there are occasions where things are not peaceful and there are people whose job it is to try to restore it. Being on the flight path for Marham, we are reminded on a daily basis of the work that these people do and today is about paying our respect and our thanks to those people; those people who have served before and those people who serve now. Every child has painted a poppy on a pilgrimage stone which has been placed around the memorial today. I am always proud of the thoughts shared and respect the children in school show on occasions such as Remembrance Day. They display interest and consideration with a desire to understand more.

We have also welcomed 2 new members of staff to our team. Miss Frammingham has joined our team of Midday Supervisory Assistants and Mr Griffiths has come to work with us as a Teaching Assistant until the end of term, primarily in Whitebeam Class but will also be spending some time in Oak. We are very pleased to have them as part of the Castle Acre family.

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is anti-bullying week. The children will be doing a range of different activities around this topic area over the course of the week. In next week's newsletter, I will share with you some of the thoughts of the children following the work they completed.

Children in Need

As you may be aware, Children in Need is on 18th November this year. This coincides with our school Open Day for September 2023 starters. Therefore we have decided to postpone our awareness day until the following Friday, the 25th November. We invite all children to wear something spotty (as much or as little as you like) and give any donation you feel able to.

School Council

School Council have been thinking about which charity they would like to support. They nominated RSPB, Woodgreen Pets or Helping Hedgehogs. They took it to a vote and the school chose Woodgreen Pets. The School Council have been coming up with ideas on how they can promote their chosen charity and will share these with everyone in due course.

Dates next week

Looking forward to next week we have flu immunisations on Tuesday morning. On Friday we have our open day for families looking to join our school community in September 2023.

Remembrance Service at Church

St James' church will be holding their Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November at 10.50am. All families are invited to attend.

Parent/Carer Forum

We will be holding our parent/carers forum on November 24th 3.30 – 4.30pm and then 6.00 – 7.00pm.

Christmas Dates

Carols around the Tree – Friday 2nd December 2:30pm

Friends Christmas Fayre – Saturday 3rd December 10-12 pm (if you can lend a hand, it would be much appreciated so please see Libby Firth). Also, the Friends would be very grateful for donations of prizes for the fayre. There is a collection box near the bike shed or they can be dropped off at the school office, thank you.

Rowan and Whitebeam Nativity – Monday 12th December 2pm & Tuesday 13th December 6pm (children to arrive at 5:30pm)

Christmas Service – Friday 16th December 1:45pm (in St James' Church)

Please see the attached dates sheet for further dates.

Attendance this week/since beginning of term

Well done everyone. There have been a couple of days of 100% attendance across the whole school – great job!

Oak Class – 97.66% / 93.72%

Whitebeam Class – 94.02% / 96.2%

Rowan Class – 97.32% / 94.73%

Whole School – 96.72% / 94.74%

CONGRATULATIONS OAK CLASS THIS WEEK!

We are working hard this year to ensure that we reach the best attendance we can. Strong attendance (96% and over) is so important for ensuring that your children learn and achieve well. 95% - considered satisfactory attendance by the Government and Ofsted as well as us - means not missing any more than ten school days over the whole year.

Donations Request to Develop Forest School Area

We are going to be working on developing a forest school area for all children to enjoy. If you have any of the following items to spare, please could you contact the office or Miss George to arrange bringing them in to support with this? It would be very much appreciated! Items needed are:

Log stumps, planks of wood, metal ware for a mud kitchen, ropes, tarpaulin, milk crates, cable reels and other recyclable materials.

See below for an exciting competition related to Forest Schools!

Clubs

We are looking to get some more after school clubs up and running with the aim of offering one every day of the week. If you, or someone you know, feel able to offer some time and help run a club then please come and see us. It could be anything – craft, outdoor learning, games – the options are endless!

Drop off and Pick Up

Just a polite reminder – please can you make sure you park carefully at drop off and pick up. Our bus driver has had a few occasions where he has not been able to park or turn. In the mornings particularly, please leave the bus bay clear. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

News from our Classes

Rowan

Mathematician of the Week – Toby, for independently identifying all of the Numicon numbers and his excellent knowledge of number pairs.

Reader of the Week – Finn, for his fantastic memory and retelling of the story of Rama and Sita.

Writer of the Week – Tia, for her excellent independent writing and use of time adverbs!

Shining Lights of the Week – Oliver L, for using his voice whilst sharing his independent play with an adult, well done!

This week has just flown by in Rowan class! We are really looking forward to representing our school whilst we pay our respects at the memorial on the 11th. We learnt about the importance of this date and why it is special to us. We have each decorated a stone by painting the poppy symbol and will place these at the memorial for members of the public to look at. In science, we have continued to learn about grouping animals, with a particular focus this week on identifying carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. We looked at the animals teeth in order to help us make our decision! In maths, reception children have been representing numbers 0-5 in different ways, whilst year ones have been using part-whole models to see how numbers can be made in different ways. We have also been looking at the festival of Diwali in RE and read the story of Rama and Sita. This will lead us nicely into our upcoming design and technology learning, where we will be designing and making our very own Diya lamps!

Whitebeam

Mathematician of the Week – Alexander for his focus and achievement in maths this week.

Reader of the Week – Elarni for her comprehension work this week.

Writer of the Week – Brody for some great ideas when writing our diary entries as Howard Carter.

Shining Light of the Week – Carter for demonstrating respect by always being polite.

This week in Whitebeam we have been Howard Carter and have written our diary entries about finding the tomb of Tutankhamun. Next week we will start learning about biographies before writing a biography about Howard Carter. In PE the children are learning invasion games and in science, when the sun allowed, we investigated how shadows are formed outside but did also experiment with torches inside! During PSHE we thought about similarities and differences between us and our friends as we explore 'celebrating difference'. In RE we looked at how Hindu beliefs are shown in their everyday lives and in history we have thought about our new enquiry question - 'why should we learn about the ancient Egyptians?' We have learnt about why we commemorate Remembrance and the significance of poppies and have each painted a poppy on a stone which we will take to church with us on Friday morning. In art the children were fascinated to discover that a famous sculptor lives very near us as we are learning about Antony Gormley. Well done Whitebeam for another busy week.

Oak

Mathematician of the Week – Freya for the consistently excellent presentation in her maths book and her exceptional performance in our times table games.

Reader of the Week – Sammy for making great inferences about new characters who we were introduced to in Beetle Boy.

Writer of the Week - Mason for a huge effort of his history work and writing about what he feels is important to a civilisation.

Shining Light of the Week – Joshua for his incredible determination in swimming this week.

This week in Oak class, our history learning has had us all debating what makes a civilisation and the most important features it needs. In writing, we are beginning our new writing unit, which will be an information

text based upon different beliefs in the afterlife amongst some early civilisations. We have used the computers to begin some research and have considered how we can check if information sources are credible and reliable. In maths we are continuing our work on multiplication and have started to explore formal written methods. Many of our Year 6 children have tried some more difficult challenges connected with this and have worked well collaboratively. Well done to all children for keeping up their times table practice and for demonstrating their ability in our class-based games. We saw incredible progress among our swimmers this Thursday with many children trying new skills which they previously found quite daunting. Obviously, we have discussed the theme of Remembrance as a class and our children all created their own poppies to take down to the church this morning. Well done in advance to our Head pupils who will undoubtedly represent the school brilliantly by speaking in church on Sunday morning.

Message from Executive Headteacher

Attendance

I am very pleased that attendance across our schools is going up. Thank you for making sure your children are in school every day that they are not ill; every day makes a real difference and good attendance is an aid to super learning that only Parents/Carers can give their child. When there are attendance concerns, we believe that working together in partnership is the best way to resolve these and achieve success for your children.

Whilst our attendance is going up, it isn't as high as we want it to be.

The diagram below really clearly shows that even when children have attendance of 95%, which sounds high, they really do miss out.

I looked at an example of one of our children in the Federation. The child has no additional needs, no particular illnesses, no operations, no difficulties in school. They do put a lot of pressure on their family to allow them to stay off school. Already by half-term, the child has missed 7 sessions (the equivalent of 3 ½ days) and their attendance is only 91.57%, very close to the level at which we involve the Local Authority (90% - defined as Persistent Absenteeism). Now 3 ½ days does not sound like a great deal of absence, or that it could matter, but I looked at what the child has missed out on:

1st session missed - missed the chance to be in a pupil and staff meeting that would have allowed the child to make a presentation to a group and boosted their self esteem

2nd session missed- Missed out on a trombone lesson and didn't get to go to Games Club or Multi Sports Club

3rd session missed - Didn't get to go to the Tag Rugby competition and missed their weekly one to one tutoring session

4th -7th sessions missed - Missed swimming, another Trombone lesson, Cross Country festival at TNHA, and didn't get to go to Games Club or Multi-Sports Club.

That child has also already missed 3 Maths lessons, 3 Writing lessons, 3 reading lessons, 2 music lessons, two PE lessons, one history lesson, one science lesson and one Spanish lesson. That is around 15 hours of learning.

They have also missed out on the chance to play instruments, develop their language skills and sport skills, take part in competitions, challenge themselves, know what it is like to push yourself and then achieve something. They didn't get to stand up in Collective Worship and be applauded for representing our Federation so well. They didn't get to enjoy themselves with their peers and cement their social relationships.

And what about whether this child is on track to achieve the expected standard for their age?

They are not, and indeed if they continued down this path, they would actually drop a whole grade at GCSE. That could be from a pass grade to a fail, and could stop them being able to take the options at A Level or BTEC or similar that they want to and could indeed limit their whole life chances.

All this, just from a few days off here and there over time.

Our role is to support you to ensure that all our children are in school all the days that they are able to be there, because we want those opportunities for each and every one of our children. So if you know that your child's attendance is lower than you'd like, please come and talk to us and together we'll work to improve.

Private Fostering

Please see the below from Norfolk County Council:

Is someone you know looking after a child or looking after your child?

Where children or young people are currently being looked after by someone else, it's called private fostering and there is a legal requirement that the council must be informed so we can offer support and advice and ensure the child's needs are being safely met. If a child or young person under the age of 16, or 18 if they are disabled, is being looked after by someone other than their parents or a close relative for 28 days or more, then this should be reported to the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) at Norfolk County Council on [0344 800 8020](tel:03448008020) between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday. More information is available by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering

A private foster carer could be a family friend, a neighbour, or an extended family member like a cousin, great grandparent or great aunt/uncle.

Online safety

Please see the below link from the NSPCC.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>



[Helping Children Deal with Bullying & Cyberbullying | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/)

Call out bullying with WWE. We've partnered with the WWE to Call out Bullying. Together we're helping young people understand why bullying is never okay and what to do if they experience or witness it.. WWE stars are touring the country and sharing advice and support on social media to help children stay safe from bullying.

www.nspcc.org.uk



Anti-Bullying Week 14th-18th November

The theme of this week this year is 'Reach Out' - the Anti-bullying alliance say this:

"Whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone you know is being bullied. Reach out and consider a new approach"

On Monday 14th, we are making odd socks to show that everyone is different and unique and this is something to be celebrated. We are all unique and special and we all have our strengths and something to offer and that we all need to look after all our school communities.

We are helping our children understand what bullying is and isn't - we are talking about the fact that bullying is ongoing, deliberate and targeted, and that falling out or someone saying something unkind is a 'Mean Moment'. Neither of these are right, and both need to be dealt with and are taken seriously. Please have a chat with your child about this. What is excellent, is that we know from our Pupil Voice surveys this term that every single child in our Federation has an adult that they trust to talk to in school.

Open Days

We are having our Open Day on INSERT DATE from 9.15-2.45pm. If you know of someone who may be interested, please do invite them. They can make an appointment or just come. Many thanks for your support.

Parents/Carers Forums

Sporle: Thank you to those Parents who came along and we'll let you know the feedback and any actions we're taking in next week's newsletter once we've discussed it as a team.

Narb/CA: Just a reminder that our Forum for this term is on INSERT DATE; please do fill in the Microsoft form and come along - we can't promise a biscuit but we'll definitely do a cuppa and a chat! Thank you for your support.

Prayer - Seth, Riley & Mason

Dear God,

Give thanks for those who have died and given their lives and for those who are serving and have served to protect us.

Amen

Thank you as always for your support and remember our door is always open if you need anything, have a query or even an idea.

Emma Spaul and Anne Neary



Head of School
Castle Acre CE Primary Academy



Executive Head Teacher
The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies
Castle Acre, Narborough and Sporle